

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 are presented below, with claims 1-22 pending. As shown below, claims 1-12 have been amended, and new claims 13-22 have been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A contents selection system in which a server transmits the contents selection information for having a client select the contents through a network, wherein  
said client has including input information transmitting means for transmitting the input speech information through said network to said server, and outputting means for receiving the contents selection information from said server through said network and for outputting the received contents selection information;  
said server including prepared information storage means for storing in each of two or more categories one or more pieces of the preparation information each pertinent to each respective contents items, ~~from one contents to another~~, contents selection information preparation means for preparing said contents selection information based on the speech information received from said client through said network and based on said preparation information, and contents selection information transmitting means for transmitting said the contents selection information prepared by said contents selection information preparation means to said client over said network.

2. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein:  
said client includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said speech information input to said input information transmitting means;

~~wherein~~ said input information transmitting means transmitting the recognized speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and

~~wherein~~ said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection information based on said recognized speech information received from said client and based on said preparation information received from said client.

3. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein:

said server includes speech recognition means for recognizing the speech of said speech information received from said client over the network; and ~~wherein~~

As cont. ~~wherein~~ said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection information based on the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means and based on said preparation information.

4. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said prepared information storage means ~~memorizes stores~~ the preparation information made up of the speech information; and

wherein said contents selection information preparation means calculates the similarity in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item between said received speech information in an acoustic characteristic quantities and each said the preparation information memorized stored in said prepared information storage means in a first category for the contents item, and determines the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;

wherein if the said determined number of contents items corresponding to the preparation information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value is not less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means acquires the speech information different from the first-stated speech information to repeat the similarity calculation thereon with respect to each said preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a second category; and

wherein if the said determined number of contents items corresponding to the preparation information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value is less than said pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means prepares the contents selection information for each of said contents items corresponding to said preparation information for which the similarity value for which has exceeded said pre-set threshold value.

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5. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said contents selection information preparation means calculates the similarity in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item between said speech information in an acoustic characteristic quantities and each said and the preparation information memorized stored in said prepared information storage means in a first category for the contents item, and determines the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;

wherein if the said determined number of contents items corresponding to the preparation information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value is not less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means calculates variations from one category to another among the other categories of said preparation

information to prepare the contents selection information based on the preparation information of the category having the maximum variations; and

wherein if ~~the said determined number of contents items corresponding to the preparation information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value is~~ less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means prepares the contents selection information ~~on~~ for each of said contents items corresponding to said preparation information for which the calculated value of similarity ~~for which~~ has exceeded said pre-set threshold value.

6. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 2 wherein:

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said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, said speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, speech recognition input to said input information transmitting means is again performed to output the speech information processed with said speech recognition;

said input information transmitting means transmits the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and ~~wherein~~

said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection information based on the recognized speech information received from said client and based on said preparation information.

7. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 3 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, said speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, speech recognition is again performed on the speech information received over the network from said client to output the speech information processed with said speech recognition; and wherein

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said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means and based on said preparation information.

8. (Currently Amended) A contents selection client for outputting the contents selection information for selecting contents transmitted from a server over a network, said contents selection client comprising:

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input speech information over said network to said server; and

outputting means for receiving said contents selection information from said server over said network to output the received contents selection information;

wherein said input information transmitting means transmits input speech information according to two or more categories of preparation information for contents items based on requests received from said server.

9. (Currently Amended) The contents selection client according to claim 8 wherein:

said input information transmitting means includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on the input speech information; and wherein

the recognized speech information, processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means, is transmitted to said server.

10. (Currently Amended) A contents selection server comprising:

prepared information storage means for ~~memorizing~~ storing in each of two or more categories one or more pieces of ~~the preparation~~ information on each pertinent to respective contents items, from one contents to another;

AS cont contents selection information preparation means for preparing the contents selection information for selecting said contents based on the speech information received from a client over a network and based on said preparation information; and

contents selection information transmitting means for transmitting said ~~the~~ contents selection information prepared by said contents selection information preparation means to said client over said network.

11. (Currently Amended) The contents selection server according to claim 10 further comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said speech information received from said client over said network;

said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means and based on said preparation information.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting contents wherein

a server ~~memorizes~~ stores in each of two or more categories one or more pieces of the preparation information ~~on~~ for each of a plurality of contents items, ~~from one contents to~~ another;

a client transmits ~~the~~ input speech information over a network to said server;

said server prepares ~~the~~ contents selection information for selecting one of said plurality of contents items, based on the speech information received from said client over said network and based on said preparation information, and transmits the ~~so~~ prepared contents selection information to said ~~network~~ client over said network; and wherein

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said client receives ~~said~~ the transmitted contents selection information over said network from said server and outputs ~~the~~ contents selection request information requesting a selection ~~the~~ client ~~requests to select based on~~ said contents selection information.

13. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said two or more categories include categories for title, performer, and genre.

14. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 4 wherein said first category is title, and said second category is performer.

15. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 4 wherein

said contents selection information preparation means determines a second number of contents items resulting from said repeated similarity calculation performed using said second category for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value; and

if said determined second number of contents items is not less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means acquires speech information different from the first-stated speech information and different from the second-stated speech information to repeat the similarity calculation thereon with respect to each said preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a third category.

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16. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 15 wherein said first category is title, said second category is performer, and said third category is genre.

17. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 5 wherein said first category is title, and said other categories upon which said contents selection information preparation means calculates variations from one category to another include categories for performer and genre.

18. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said contents selection information preparation means selects a format from one of two or more available formats and provides the contents selection information to said contents selection information transmitting means in the selected format.



19. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 18 wherein said two or more available formats include text, still image, moving image, and audio.

20. (New) The contents selection client according to claim 8 wherein said two or more categories includes categories for title, performer, and genre.

AS 21. (New) The contents selection server according to claim 10 wherein said two or more categories include categories for title, performer, and genre.

22. (New) The method according to claim 12 wherein said two or more categories include categories for title, performer, and genre.